(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b). The North-Eastern Council has discussed its role in the last two meetings. The Government have not taken any decision in the matter so far.

Direct Dialling System with U.S.A.

*259. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has introduced a new system through which U.S.A. has been put on direct dial link with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits which are likely to accrue from it; and

(d) the number and names of other countries which are linked up with India through direct dialling system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. New service known as 'Home Direct' service has been introduced.

(b) Details are given in the attached statements.

(c) The service has been introduced as part of Department of Telecommunications's contribution to the Visit India year 1991. This service will facilitate foreign tourists and businessmen visiting India to contact their home instantaneously by using their credit card. This facility \eams foreign exchange for our country as these calls are treated as calls emanating from the foreign country eventhough it is an outgoing call from India.

(d) As at (b).

STATEMENT

1. The service has been introduced to 8 countries with effect form 1.11.91, as detailed below:-

		Access Code		
1.	USA	000	11	7
2.	U.K.	000	441	7
3.	JAPAN	000	811	7
4.	ITALY	000	391	7
5.	SPAIN	000	341	7
6.	SINGAPORE	000	651	7
7.	NETHERLANDS	000	311	7
8.	CANADA	000	16	7

Call to any of these 8 countries can be made from any telephone with STD/ISD facility by dialling the above access codes. The service will also be available on dedicated telephones installed at important places of tourist interests, Air Ports, Five Star Hotels and Telephone Bureaus.

2. On dialling the required code, the call will be answered by the operator at the distant end who will put through the call to the required number on "Collect Call" basis after confirmation from the claled number. In respect of calls to USA, AT&T cards can be used.

3. The tariff for each effective call from a dedicated phone will be Rs. 10/- and in case of Dial-up calls the charges will be one metering unit per effective calls.

STD Facilities on National Highways

*260. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts have been made to provide STD facilities on the National Highways;

(b) if so, the norms fixed for providing this facility; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Intially these facilities are proposed to be provided approximately at 50 kms distance on the National Highways.

(c) These facilities have been provided so far on the following National Highways.

1. Delhi — Chandigarh

2. Bombay — Pune, and

3. Madras — Bangalore.

It is proposed to provide STD payphones progressively on other National Highways.

Smuggling of Arms Across Indo-Pak Border

*261. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of arms and other contraband across the Indo-Pak border has been going on unabated:

(b) if so, the details of contraband seized during the last three months, Sector-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) smuggling of arms and other contrabands across the Indo-Pak border has continued though its intensity has come down. The details of the contraband seized during the last 3 months are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) A number of steps have been taken to deal with the situation which include:

i) Increase in the strength of BSF together with more Border out Posts, Observation Post Towers, Vehicles, electronic equipments, increase foot patrolling etc.
ii) Fencing and flood lighting in certain identified vulnerable stretches along the Punjab and Rajasthan border; and
iii) Gearing up of intelligence set up.